



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY BULLETIN

GUIDELINES **(Cont'd):**

Staff should not discuss students' confidential information or communications without their permission. An exception to this rule of confidentiality includes, but is not limited to, a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or a clear and present danger to the health or safety of the student. In cases of suspected child abuse, employees are required, as mandated reporters, to make a report to a Child Protection Agency, as outlined in the District's child abuse policy. This child abuse reporting responsibility does not include notifying students' parents/guardians of a pregnancy or related condition. Please note that the pregnancy of a minor, in and of itself, may not warrant a suspected child abuse report, unless the pregnant student is age 13 or under and the partner is age 14 or older. Where students' parents/guardians are unaware of a pregnancy, students may be encouraged to involve their parents/guardians, but must not be coerced to do so.

B. Students' Right to Consent to Confidential Medical Services

Minors have a statutory right to consent to medical care related to pregnancy, pregnancy prevention, including contraceptive services, and other reproductive health services including pregnancy termination. This right applies to all youth and is not limited to pregnant and parenting teens, and means that minors may receive confidential medical services as described above without the knowledge or consent of their parent/guardian. In addition, any written verification regarding confidential medical services shall not appear in students' school records and shall be kept in a separate confidential file.

In recognition of this right, the Education Code states that school authorities may excuse any pupil from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the knowledge or consent of a parent/guardian. This information is conveyed in the District's Parent Student Handbook and on the "Emergency Card" signed as part of enrollment: School authorities may excuse any pupil age twelve and older from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the parent or guardian. In addition, schools may not require that students obtain written parental permission prior to releasing students from school to receive confidential medical services and may not notify parents when students leave school to obtain such services.

III. Attendance and Excused Absences

A. Attendance

Every child, age 6 to 18, has the right and obligation to attend school. Pregnant and parenting students who are minors have the same obligation to meet compulsory school attendance laws as any student. This obligation applies to minor students regardless of their marital or parental status.